

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 4-11, 13-18, and 21.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Marked-up Copy".

A new abstract page is supplied to conform to that appearing on the publication page of the WIPO application, but the new Abstract is typed on a separate page as required by U.S. practice.

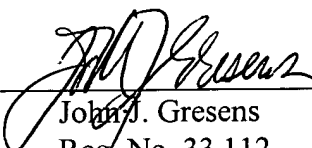
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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4. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that a first upper housing compartment (51) comprises an electronic circuit that is electrically connected at least to the field bus and the system bus.
5. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that a second upper housing compartment (52) defines a closed spatial region.
6. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that a third upper housing compartment (53) comprises an electronic circuit that can be electrically connected to at least the system bus and brake leads.
7. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the lower housing compartment (2) comprises a braking resistance of a converter (45) and the braking resistance is connected to the electronic circuit of the third upper housing compartment (53).
8. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the transfer pin-and-socket connector in each case constitutes the only electrical connection between the cabling in the lower housing compartment (2) and the electronic circuit in the associated upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53).

9. Distributor box according to [one of the claims 1 to 7,] claim 1, characterized in that the transfer pin-and-socket connector device in each case and a ground-connection cable constitute the only electrical connection between the cabling in the lower housing compartment (2) and the electronic circuit in the associated upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53).
10. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the set of field-bus leads and/or control-bus leads also includes leads for supply voltages.
11. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the lower housing compartment (2) comprises a motor-protection switch (31, 54), in particular for the electrical disconnection of high tension leads.
13. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the electronic circuit is designed so as to be addressable as a bus participant and can filter out from the field bus data that are destined for this address and translate them into a control-bus protocol and send the result by way of the control bus to the field mechanism or mechanisms supplied from the distributor box.
14. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that the electronic circuit comprises settable switches, such as DIP switches or the like, with which to set the field-bus address.
15. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that at least one upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53) comprises connector devices for the connection of external sensors and/or actuators.

16. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that at least one upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53) comprises a connector device for a control unit, in particular a computing device such as a PC or the like, in particular for balancing SPS programs, control programs, data or the like and/or devices for outputting and/or displaying data such as the states of sensors, actuators or drive mechanisms.
17. Distributor box according to [one of the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that at least one upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53) comprises display devices such as LEDs and/or LCD displays or the like.
18. Distributor box according to [one ofst the preceding claims,] claim 1, characterized in that at least one upper housing compartment (1, 51, 52, 53) comprises control elements such as keys, push-buttons, rotating knobs or the like for input and/or for controlling processes.
21. Distributor box according to [at least one of the claims 19 to 20,] claim 19, characterized in that the housing is constructed at least in part for giving off heat, in particular comprises cooling fingers and/or cooling ribs (60).